



Friday, January 6, 2006

West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School

Westside Boiler Invasion (WBI) **NASA-sponsored FIRST team highlights**



As it enters its seventh year in the FIRST Robotics program, Westside Boiler Invasion (WBI), Team 461, benefits from a unique relationship with Purdue University, which provides impactful mentorship opportunities. The WBI program engages students in year-around activities including technical training, community service projects and off-season competitions beyond the six-week build season and subsequent regional competitions. WBI attends the Indiana Robotics Invitational in Indianapolis each July, and is planning to participate in other off-season competitions and events. Under the umbrella of Purdue FIRST Programs, students from multiple high schools work with the guidance of college students from various majors and diverse walks of life. Mentors and students form lifetime friendships and work together to teach, learn and inspire. Numerous team leadership positions give high school students the chance to learn important business and organizational skills.

The team is organized into sub-teams to organize tasks, goals, and workload, engaging students in work tailored to their interests. Every high school student would agree – they walk away at the very least with an enhanced appreciation for science and technology. Team members combine their talents in all areas of team progress during the build season to prepare the team for travel and competition. The team has attended the Championship Event five years out of its six in existence, and tries each year to participate in two Regional events. In the 2004 Championships, WBI was a finalist in the Curie Division. The team was also honored with the Chairman's Award at the Midwest Regional in 2003. In addition to discovering the impact of their work at the regional and international competition levels, students are constantly exposed to potential opportunities in science and engineering. This leadership-oriented and supportive team environment inspires many WBI students to return to the program as mentors, whether as college students or as members of the professional workforce.

Visit: <http://robotics.nasa.gov/home/home.php>